



December 2011



Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship

A Member of the Unitarian Universalist Association

ROY HOFFMAN -- "Why I Write"

Dec. 4 Roy Hoffman, a journalist and novelist, is author of the new, non-fiction collection, *"Alabama Afternoons: Profiles and Conversations"*, and three other books: the novels *"Almost Family"* and *"Chicken Dreaming Corn"*, and the non-fiction, *"Back Home"*. A staff writer for the Press-Register, Roy is a native of Mobile who lived in New York City for twenty years before returning to live Fairhope in 1996. In addition to his regular features and profiles for the Press-Register, Roy has contributed to the New York Times, Oxford-American, Fortune, and other publications.

Introduction: Jule Moon

LAMAR RENCHER, M. D.

Dec. 11 -- "Inequity in America"

Longtime Fellowship member Dr. Lamar Rencher became interested in financial inequality upon reading *"Spirit Level"*, a book written by two British epidemiologists researching health problems of the world. The book is a comparison of the wealthier nations (and of the American states) with respect to inequality and its affect on people and their everyday life.

Introduction: Helen Earl

ANNUAL FAIRHOPE UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP MEETING and "An Introduction to TED"

Dec. 18 In the first part of the program **Michael Delaney**, a Fellowship friend and facilitator of the weekly education group that meets at 9:45 am each Sunday, will share a short introduction and small sample of TED. TED is a non-profit devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading". It started out in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: Technology, Entertainment, Design.

In the second part of the program **Dr. Michael Patrick**, President of the Fellowship, will conduct the Annual Meeting. The agenda is published on page 3 of this Newsletter and includes a proposed slate of officers for next year.

JUANIE NOLAND, RUTH GERACI, PAM PERKINS, and PAT CASSADY -- "An Elf, a Druid,

Dec. 25 and a Wise Man: A Play About Winter Celebrations'

For thousands of years, humans have held celebrations in December, the month of winter solstice. In early cultures, when communities were not sure they would survive the "famine months" between January and April, the December festival was the last feast celebration before the hard winter began. Some cultures viewed winter solstice as a time of rebirth because the sun was soon to be "reborn" and the long, dark days shortened. Several FUF members will brighten Christmas Day with their humorous, and occasionally even informative, drama about Christmas and other winter celebrations.

LAST SUNDAY POTLUCK

The regularly scheduled pot luck brunch will not be held following the 12/25 service. Instead, please plan to join us later in the day for Christmas Dinner. See page 4 for details!



SUNDAY SERVICE 11 A.M., 1150 FAIRHOPE AVE.

Adult discussion group meets each Sunday at 10 a.m.

Children's Fellowship each Sunday 11 a.m.—12 noon Come join us!

Write 1150 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope, AL 36532. Tel. 251-929-3207.

www.fairhopeuu.org

fairhopeunitarian@att.net



NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

At the November 4 meeting, your Board:

- ~ Approved the Treasurer's Report
- ~ Noted that 2011 contributions are less than budgeted for
- ~ Approved the proposed 2012 budget
- ~ Commended the "FUF Chair Cleaning Committee", Trudi Rogier, Elin Shallcross, and Jean Lawrence, for their work cleaning the FUF upholstered chairs
- ~ Commended the "Garden Party Work Crew" for their work this month
- ~ Approved purchase of new floodlights to replace those burned out
- ~ Discussed BSUN Media's proposal for improving the present FUF sound system
- ~ Approved the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of officers for 2012
- ~ Approved the proposed agenda for the December 18 annual meeting

—Submitted by Juanie Noland



DECEMBER BOARD MEETING AGENDA

The FUF Board of Director's monthly meeting will be on Friday, December 2nd at 10am. Current agenda items include:

1. Approval of minutes for November board meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report.

Old Business:

Building Upkeep (Trudi Rogier)
FUF Sound System (Jeanine Normand)

New Business:

Nothing is currently scheduled, but any member with an item that warrants imminent board discussion should let Robin Fabel know without delay. Board meetings are open to all FUF members.

—Submitted by Robin Fabel



October 2011 Financial Summary as Submitted by Pat Smith

	Oct	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Support and Revenue				
Contributions	2,911	29,109	35,000	(5,891)
Other Revenue	0	3,427	4,167	(740)
Total Support and Revenue	2,911	32,536	39,167	(6,631)
Expenses				
Building	2,496	31,046	26,117	4,929
Committees	1,194	8,037	9,883	(1,846)
Donations	0	3,375	3,167	208
Total Expenses	3,690	42,458	39,167	3,291
Net Operating Increase/(Decrease)	(779)	(9,922)	0	(9,922)

There is no need for temples, no need for complicated philosophies. My brain and my heart are my temples; my philosophy is kindness.

-Dalai Lama



2011 ANNUAL MEETING DECEMBER 18TH

Proposed Agenda

- I. Approval for the minutes of the 2010 annual meeting
 - II. Annual Treasurer's Report for 2011 (Pat Smith)
 - III. Committee Reports: Committee Chairs are asked to file written reports with the FUF Recording Secretary for the historical records
 - IV. Old Business: None
 - V. New Business
 - A. Report of the Nominating Committee. (Nominating Committee Members: (Pinky Bass, Harvey Joanning, and Katherine Thompson)
- Notes: 1. According to the by-laws of FUF "The committee shall nominate at least one qualified person willing to serve for each office to be filled in the succeeding annual meeting."
 2. "Nominations may be made from the floor at the time of the election, but intent to do so and consent of those to be nominated shall be made known to the presiding officer at least one week in prior to the election so that a secret ballot may be arranged for positions for which two or more persons shall have been nominated."
- B. Proposed FUF budget for 2012 (Kay Seymour)
 - C. Items from the floor

—Submitted by Michael Patrick

Nominating Committee Recommendations

The Nominating Committee consisting of Harvey Joanning, Pinky Bass, and Katherine Thompson has recommended those officers eligible to serve a second year be nominated. This means only Pat Smith, who has served two years as treasurer, would not be eligible for re-election. The slate for 2011 election of officers consists of:

Chair of the Board - Robin Fabel
 President - Michael Patrick
 Vice President - Bert Brun
 Program Committee VP - Jessie Rose
 Recording Secretary - Juanie Noland
 Corresponding Secretary - Thelma Topper
 Treasurer - Kay Seymour

—Submitted by Michael Patrick



FIBER ARTS SHOW ANNOUNCED

Those among us who do creative needlework of any kind are invited to participate in the Fiber Arts Show at the fellowship during the months of January and February 2012. The work must be your own and must be original. Possibilities include quilting, embroidery, fiber sculpture, knitting, crocheting, tapestry, original clothing design, and weaving.

We know that there's a lot of talent out there! At this point, we're estimating that there would be room for two pieces per fiber artist. If there's space, we may ask for additional pieces.

Work may be brought to the Fellowship for hanging or other display on Thursday, January 5th at 10am. If you have questions about the exhibit, see Jean Lawrence or Pinky Bass. The art reception will be held on January 7th from 3-5 pm .

—Submitted by Jean Lawrence

Save the Date!

The **FUF CoffeeHouseLive!** is Saturday, January 21, 2012, from 5-8 p.m. Exciting entertainment acts, poetry slam, and a jam at the end. Share your talents and perform a short spot in the line-up!

FUF members, please volunteer to help in one of these areas: publicity, decorating, selling snacks, organizing the night's acts, taking donations at the door, or clean-up afterwards.

Contact Jeanine Normand for any questions or to volunteer. This is a benefit for FUF (general funds), so let's all take part in this night of fun.

—Submitted by Jeanine Normand



**Santa Claus has the right idea.
Visit people once a year.**

- Victor Borge

Piano Concert Benefit

Jeanine "Dr. Jazz" Normand performs a grand piano concert benefit, "Winter Solstice and Holiday Music," Sunday, December 18, at FUF, from 2-3 p.m. Free, with free-will donations and a bake sale. All money raised goes directly into the tuition check for our Faulkner Community College nursing student.

—Submitted by Jeanine Normand



Celebrate Christmas at The Fellowship!

We'll be having our annual Christmas dinner at the fellowship on Sunday, December 25th for our members and friends. We always have a great time together, so plan on joining us! If you have a friend or relative who might otherwise spend the holiday alone, bring him or her along.

Bring your favorite holiday dish to share, and join one of the committees to help with set up or cleanup.

We'll gather after 4pm for wine or soft drinks and conversation, with the buffet dinner served at 5pm. Stay afterwards for conversation or games! There's no rush to leave.

Sign up for the dinner and for committees on Sunday mornings beginning on December 11th.

There will not be a 4th Sunday potluck on December 25th following the service.

—Submitted by Jean Lawrence



NOTABLE UNITARIANS: Winfred Overholser, M. D., 1892-1964

By Edric Lescouflair, Harvard College '03



Until modern times mental illness had long been associated with ideas of immorality and inferiority. Analogies to demon possession were common; indeed, some invoked the biblical account—Jesus casting demons out of the madman at Gadarene—to allude to the spiritual aspect of such maladies. Recently, however, the work of psychiatrists in particular has aided in removing the veil around these previously mystifying diseases. Much of this work was done in the twentieth century, and no one did more to dispel erroneous myths about psychiatric disorders than Winfred Overholser.

Dr. Overholser was born on April 21, 1892, in Worcester, Massachusetts, to Edwin Moses and Mary Jane Overholser. After graduating from nearby Wellesley High School, he enrolled in Harvard College, pursuing a degree in economics. Overholser received his A. B. *cum laude* in 1912. Subsequently he studied law and medicine at Boston University and was awarded an M.B. in 1915 and an M.D. degree in 1916.

In 1917 Overholser began the type of work that would occupy most of his life when he accepted a position at the Westboro State Hospital in Massachusetts. The advent of the First World War created a need for the study of psychiatric ailments affecting soldiers, and he received military leave to go to France to work in the neuropsychiatric section of the U.S. Army Medical Corps. The work in France qualified him to become the assistant superintendent of Gardner State Hospital in Massachusetts in the early 1920s.

Overholser then became an assistant to the commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Diseases. This affiliation allowed him to help enact the Briggs Law which provided for the mental evaluation of any person convicted of a serious crime. Of this piece of legislation, he wrote, "The significance of the Briggs Law is that it has provided for the prompt recognition of defendants who should be in hospitals, thus preventing trial of mentally ill persons."

In addition to working for the rights of mentally ill criminals, Dr. Overholser taught at Boston University, specifically at the medical school from 1925-1934, and at the law school from 1929-1937. He also taught psychiatry at George Washington School of Medicine in Washington D.C., becoming a professor in 1938.

In 1937 Overholser received the appointment that defined his life of medical service. He was nominated by the American Psychiatric Association to be the superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, a government run institution in Washington, D.C. He held that post until 1962.

Once in Washington, Overholser continued in his tradition of caring for the mentally ill and treating patients with compassion, realizing that a mental illness should not be ideologically differentiated from a physical ailment. He was an active Unitarian who was a trustee of All Souls Church in Washington, D.C. Religion played a major part in his life, and he often examined the relationship between religion and mental disorders. On this topic, he wrote, "Religious conflicts are not, of course, necessarily related to mental disorder; they are, in fact, a part of everyday life. There are certain conflicts, however, that are the outgrowth of mental disorder and a manifestation of it." He was an active member of the Unitarian Service Committee, and he served as the moderator of the American Unitarian Association from 1946-1948. Overholser achieved some renown as a proponent of liberal religion.

Much of Overholser's work at St. Elizabeth's consisted of helping mentally ill criminals to be absolved of responsibility for their crimes. He was a supporter of the Durham Rule, which would cause such consideration to become law. During the period that Overholser was at St. Elizabeth's, the hospital grew to be an internationally acclaimed institution of mental health. His leadership was widely seen as the cause since he exhibited an unusual ability to integrate esoteric concepts and common reasoning. He came to be known as "the dean of forensic psychiatry."

From 1945 to 1958, St. Elizabeth's was charged with the care of a high profile patient, Ezra Pound. The poet had been accused of treason after the Second World War because of radio broadcasts he had made from Italy. According to Overholser, he suffered from a paranoid state which rendered him unfit. Overholser's evaluation helped Pound eventually to achieve independence. Another famous case in 1954 involved former Marine Col. Frank Schwable, who had signed a germ warfare confession under coercion from his Chinese captors. Overholser's insistence that Schwable was without "a will" led to the Army's adaption of a Code of Conduct for its personnel.

Dr. Overholser served as the president of the American Psychiatric Association (1947-1948). The organizations with which he was affiliated included the New England Society of Psychiatry, the Pan American Medical Society of Washington, and the Academy of Medicine in Washington. He gave a simple prescription for mental health: "Don't take yourself too seriously. Be tolerant of the peculiarities of others. Try to do something worthwhile in your life and observe the Golden Rule."

PEACE PARADE

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE
EASTERN SHORE PEACE NETWORK
MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN THE
FAIRHOPE CHRISTMAS PARADE
DECEMBER. 2ND, 7PM

In the midst of the highly commercialized Christmas season we hope to bring a message of social concern and spiritual awareness.

Candles will be carried along with banners from the 1985-2010 parades.

Bring a candle and join us!

Call Holly at 928-1010 for exact meeting location or join in when you see the banners during the parade.

—Submitted by Holly Couret



NEWSLETTER

Submit calendar events or articles specific to the Fairhope Unitarian Fellowship by the date noted in the newsletter calendar section.

For events, please include all pertinent information. Members and Friends are invited to submit poems, quotations or other brief words of wisdom to be published as space allows.

Provide written copy or email to editor at:

nanpie@juno.com

EDITOR/PUBLISHER: Nancy Martin

DISTRIBUTION: Diane Ehlers & Ruth Geraci

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Thu., Dec. 1: Non-fiction Book Group 930am
 Fri., Dec. 2: Board Meeting 10am
 Fri., Dec. 2: Peace Parade 7pm
 Sun., Dec., 4: TED Discussion Group 945-1045am
 Sun., Dec. 4: Current Events Discussion Group 10am
 Tue., Dec. 6: Knitters' Group 1-330pm
 Tue., Dec. 6: Choir rehearsal 330pm
 Sat., Dec. 10: Game Night 630-9pm
 Sun., Dec. 11: TED Discussion Group 945-1045am
 Sun., Dec. 11: Current Events Discussion Group 10am
 Tue., Dec. 13: Knitters Group 1-330pm
 Tue., Dec. 13: Choir rehearsal 330pm
 Wed., Dec. 14: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
 Thu., Dec. 15: Non-fiction Book Group 930am
 Sun., Dec. 18: TED Discussion Group 945-1045am
 Sun., Dec. 18: Current Events Discussion Group 10am
 Sun., Dec. 18: SAC Meeting 1230pm (All welcome!)
 Sun., Dec., 18: "Dr. Jazz" Piano Concert 2-3pm
 Tue., Dec. 20: Knitters' Group 1-330pm
 Tue., Dec. 21: Choir rehearsal 330pm
 Wed., Dec. 21: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
 Sat., Dec. 24: Game Night 630-9pm
 Sun., Dec., 25: TED Discussion Group 945-1045am
 Sun., Dec. 25: Current Events Discussion Group 10am
 Sun., Dec. 25: Christmas Meal 12noon
 Sun., Dec. 25: January newsletter deadline 5pm
 Tue., Dec. 27: Knitters' Group 1-330pm
 Tue., Dec. 27: Choir rehearsal 330pm
 Wed., Dec. 28: Back Porch Folk Singers 3-430pm
 Thu., Dec. 29: Non-fiction Book Group 930am

Upcoming Early January Events:

Thu., Jan. 5: Fiber Arts Exhibit drop-off 10am
 Sat., Jan. 7: Fiber Art Show Reception 3-5pm
 Sat., Jan. 21: FUF CoffeeHouseLive 5-8pm

